

The first plutonium pits—the triggers for thermonuclear weapons—certified for acceptance into the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile in almost 20 years were produced and delivered by the Lab's Plutonium Facility at TA-55. The nation lost its pit production capability when the Rocky Flats facility in Colorado closed in 1989. Re-establishing the capability at Los Alamos was a long, complex process, requiring the development of new production techniques, the qualification of new materials, and stringent analysis and testing to ensure—without nuclear tests—that the new series of pits would meet war-reserve requirements.

Plutonium pits delivered, meeting key NNSA pit production milestone